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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *July* the 3d, 1755.

THE converſation happening a few evenings ago, to turn upon the different employments of mankind, we fell into the conſideration how ill the various parts of life are generally ſuited to the perſons who appear in them. This was attributed either to their own ambition, which tempts them to undertake a character they have not abilities to perform with credit; or to ſome accidental circumſtance, which throws them into profeſſions contrary, perhaps, both to their genius and inclination. All were unanimous in blaming thoſe parents, who force their children to enter into a way of life contrary to their natural bent, which generally points out the employment that is beſt adapted to their capacities. To this we in a great meaſure aſcribed the ſlow progreſs of arts and ſciences, the frequent failures and miſcarriages of life, and many of thoſe deſperate acts which are often the conſequences of them.

THIS

THIS converſation carried us through the greateſt part of the evening, till the company broke up and retired to reſt. But the weather being hot, and my ſenſes perfectly awake, I found it impoſſible to give way to ſleep; ſo that my thoughts ſoon returned to the late ſubject of the evening's entertainment. I recollected many inſtances of this miſapplication of parts, and compaſſionated the unhappy effects of it. I reflected, that as all men have different ideas of pleaſures and honours, different views, inclinations and capacities; yet all concur in a deſire of pleaſing and excelling; if that principle were applied to the proper point, and every one employed himſelf agreeably to his genius, what a wonderful effect it would ſoon have in the world! With how ſwift a progreſs would arts and ſciences grow up to perfection! And to what an amazing height would all kind of knowledge ſoon be carried! Men would no longer drudge on with diſtaſte and murmuring in a ſtudy they abhor; but every one would purſue with cheerfulneſs his proper calling: buſineſs would become the higheſt pleaſure; diligence would be too univerſal to be eſteemed a virtue; and no man would be aſhamed of an employment, in which he appeared to advantage.

WHILE my mind hung upon theſe reflections, I imperceptibly dropt aſleep. But my imagination, ſurviving my reaſon, ſoon entered into a dream, which (though mixed with wild flights and abſurdities) bore ſome analogy to my waking thoughts.

I FANCIED myſelf ſtill reflecting on the ſame ſubject, when I was ſuddenly ſnatched up into the air, and preſently found myſelf on the poets' Olympus, at the right hand of Jupiter; who told me that he approved my thoughts, and would make an immediate experiment of the change I had been wiſhing for.

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He had no ſooner pronounced theſe words, than I perceived a ſtrange hurry and confuſion in the lower world: all mankind was in motion, preparing to obey the tremendous nod.

Multitudes of the nobility began to ſtrip themſelves of their robes and coronets, and to act in the different capacities of horſe-jockies, coachmen, taylors, fidlers, and merry-andrews. I diſtinguiſhed two or three great perſonages, who had dreſſed themſelves in white waiſtcoats, and with napkins wrapt about their heads, and aprons tucked round their waiſts, were buſied in ſeveral great kitchens, making conſiderable improvements in the noble art of cookery. A few of this illuſtrious rank, without quitting their honourable diſtinctions, applied themſelves to enlarging the diſcoveries, enlightening the underſtandings, rectifying the judgments, refining the taſtes, poliſhing the manners, improving the hearts, and by all poſſible methods promoting the intereſts of their fellow creatures.

I saw reverend prelates, who, tearing off their lawn, put themſelves into red coats, and ſoon obtained triumphs and ovations; while others dwindled into pariſh clerks, and village pedagogues. But I obſerved with pleaſure ſeveral of that ſacred order in my own country, who appeared calm and unchanged amidſt the general buſtle, and ſeemed to be deſigned originally to do honour to their exalted ſtations.

There were ſeveral grave old men who threw off their ſcarlet robes, and retired to religious houſes. I ſaw with wonder ſome of theſe deſerted robes put on by private gentlemen, who, loſt in retirement and reſerve, were little imagined to be qualified for ſuch important poſts. But what more aſtoniſhed me was to ſee men of military rank throwing away their regimentals,

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and appearing with a much better grace in longer ſuits of ſcarlet. Some gentlemen of the robe, whom I had always regarded with reſpect and reverence, ſeemed now more awful and reſpectable than ever: one, in particular, greatly ſurprized me, by quitting the ſeat of judgment which he had long filled with univerſal applauſe, till I ſaw him entering a more auguſt aſſembly, and afterwards paſſing to the cabinet of his prince, from whence he returned to the great hall where firſt I obſerved him, and convinced me of the extent of his abilities, by appearing equally capable in all his employments.

I saw in a public aſſembly a junto of patriots, who while they were haranguing on the corruption and iniquity of the times, broke off in the middle, and turned ſtock-jobbers and pawn-brokers. A group of critics at the Bedford coffee-houſe were in an inſtant converted into haberdaſhers of ſmall-ware in Cheapſide. Tranſlators, commentators and polemic divines, made for the moſt part very good coblers, gold-finders and rat-catchers. The chariot of a very eminent phyſician was transformed all at once into a cart, and the doctor to an executioner, faſtening a halter round the neck of a criminal. I ſaw two very noted ſurgeons of my acquaintance in blue ſleeves and aprons, exerting themſelves notably in a ſlaughter-houſe near the Victualling-office. A reverend divine, who was preaching in the fields to a numerous audience, recollected himſelf on a ſudden, and producing a ſet of cups and balls, performed ſeveral very dextrous tricks by ſlight of hand. The pretty gentlemen were every where uſefully employed in knotting, pickling, and making conſerves. The fine ladies remained as they were; for it was beyond even the omnipotence of Jupiter (without entirely changing their natures) to aſſign an office, in which they could be beneficial to mankind.

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SEVERAL princes and potentates now relieved themſelves from the load of crowns and ſceptres, and entered with a good grace into private ſtations. Others put themſelves at the head of companies of banditti, formed of lawyers, public officers and exciſemen. Their prime miniſters had generally the honour of being their firſt lieutenants, and ſometimes enjoyed the ſole command; while the courtiers ranged themſelves under them in rank and file. But with what a heart-felt pleaſure did I obſerve an auguſt and venerable monarch, ſurrounded by a youthful band, with the moſt amiable countenances I had ever beheld! He wore a triple crown upon his head, which an angel held on, and over it a ſcroll, with this inſcription, FOR A GRATEFUL AND AFFECTIONATE PEOPLE.

THE ſhops now began to be filled with people of diſtinction; and many a man ſtept with a genteel air, from behind the counter, into a great eſtate, or a poſt of honour.

THE nobility were almoſt all changed throughout the world: for no man dared to anſwer to a title of ſuperiority, who was not conſcious of ſuperior excellence and virtue.

IN the midſt of all this buſtle, I was ſtruck with the appearance of a large bevy of beauties and women of the firſt faſhion, who with all the perfect confidence of good breeding, inſhrined themſelves in the ſeveral temples dedicated to the Cyprian Venus, ſecure of the univerſal adorations and proſtrations of mankind. Others of inferior rank and fame, very unconcernedly purſued their domeſtic affairs, and the occupations of the needle or the toilette. But it was with a ſecret pride that I obſerved a few of my dear country-women quit their dreſſing rooms

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